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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5047
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 001086

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STATE FOR S/CPR, AF, AF/SPG AND AF/W
AID/W FOR AFR/WA
PARIS FOR POL - D'ELIA
PARIS ALSO FOR USMISSION TO UNESCO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/08/2016

TAGS: PREL OVIP EAID KMCA PHUM SG

SUBJECT: TRAVEL, DARFUR, MCA AND U.S. ASSISTANCE ON WADE'S MIND

Classified By: Ambassador Janice L. Jacobs for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) SUMMARY: President Wade asked the Ambassador to meet with him on May 4. The 30-minute meeting covered his upcoming trip to the United States, France and Switzerland; a potential official trip later this year to meet with President Bush and to sign the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Compact; U.S. assistance to Senegal, and Darfur. On Darfur, Wade said that the offer on the table did not go far enough for the rebels. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (U) Ambassador Jacobs, accompanied by Vice Consul Thomas Chojnacki (notetaker), met with President Abdoulaye Wade for a wide-ranging discussion on May 5. Wade began by asking how the Ambassador was settling in. He then discussed his upcoming trip to New York City, May 10-12, to launch Radio and Television of Senegal (RTS) satellite broadcasts to North America and the Caribbean. RTS is also going to work on a documentary on the African diaspora to be shown when Wade travels to the Caribbean and South America this summer. He mentioned that from New York he will travel to Paris to receive UNESCO's Felix Houphouet-Boigny Prize and then go on to Geneva for a Digital Solidarity event.

¶3. (C) During the U.S. portion of the trip, Wade said he would like to meet or speak with A/S Frazer to discuss Darfur. He believes that the rebels must be offered a better deal, saying they will not give up their arms unless they have incentive to do so, such as autonomy. (COMMENT: This is a notable position, given Wade's unwillingness to negotiate concessions with the Movement of Democratic Forces of the Casamance (MFDC). END COMMENT.)

4 (SBU) Wade stated that the White House has contacted his office regarding a potential visit to Washington at the end of 2006. Wade would like to finalize plans for an official working visit and hoped that the MCA Compact could be signed on that trip.

¶5. (SBU) Finally, Wade mentioned that he had seen an article that mentioned that U.S. aid to Senegal had decreased. Ambassador Jacobs clarified, explaining that while USAID/Senegal's budget has decreased, the increase in other forms of assistance, including military assistance and MCA funds, more than offset the reduction in USAID assistance; in fact, USG assistance to Senegal is rising, with total assistance in 2005 of USD 42 million.

¶6. (C) COMMENT: The reported decrease in aid and Wade's desire for an official working visit were clearly on his

mind. Nonetheless, he was relaxed and appeared vigorous. He discussed his writing, showed models of his building projects, and was in no hurry to conclude the meeting. END COMMENT.

JACKSON